HF Happenings

Issue: 563   **July 2013**

*Have **YOU** done anything today to Promote **Amateur Radio?***

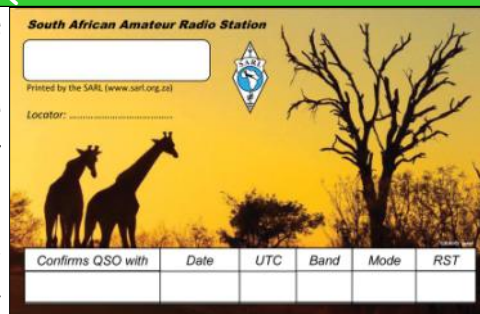## SARL Member QSL Cards

The South African Radio League has produced a generic QSL card which you can personalise by writing in your own call sign. The cards are available in batches of 100 at R50 per batch, postage included.

To order, pay the amount for the required number of QSL cards into the SARL bank account - ABSA account no 407 158 8849, branch code 632 005.

Then send details of your delivery address and the proof of payment to Willem, ZS6WWJ at zs6wwj@gmail.com and wait at your post-box for delivery!

SARL Winter QRP Contest

These QRP contests are intended to be fun activities to promote QRP operation between radio amateurs in Southern Africa. Using homebuilt equipment or operating as a portable / field station and using temporary antennas is encouraged, but is not a requirement.

The Winter QRP Contest takes place from 12:00 UTC to 15:00 UTC (14:00 to 17:00 CAT) on Saturday 20 July 2013. Home or field stations are welcome to participate using SSB, CW or mixed (SSB/CW) with 5 watts (PEP) output or less and a station may be contacted once per mode.

The first hour is limited to the 40 m band only, the remaining two hours the contesters are free to use any HF (non-WARC) band as they see fit. Comply with the contest preferred segments as detailed in the general rules. It would be advantageous to use the standard QRP calling frequencies as the starting point.

The exchange is a RS or RST and Grid locator. Please consider exchanging realistic RS(T) signal reports. Please use the full 6 character grid locator. e.g. KG43eu. If the station's grid locator is unknown, then use some other means that identifies the station's location: E.g. the name of the closest town or city e.g. Harrismith, or 25 km NW of Ritchie. With DX contacts the locator information can be omitted, the RS(T) will suffice as the minimum required exchange as per the general rules

Each contact counts 1 point. Prefix/DXCC multiplier - each South African call area 1 to 9 counts as a multiplier and each DXCC country worked counts as a multiplier.

Station type multiplier - x 1 - for Home stations; x 2 - for Portable stations or x 3 - for ultra light portable field station. The definitions listed in the general

Current Summits-on-the-Air (SOTA) activities are announced at
www.sotawatch.org
And more SOTA information can be found at www.sota.org.uk

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section of the SARL rules define the above stations types accurately. A mobile station will be treated as a field station. A portable station not meeting the requirements as a field station will be treated as a home station.

Ultra light portable field station must comply with all the field station criteria, but the entire station, antenna included, must be carried by the operator to the operating site. The distance carried must not be less than 1 km. Score = (QSO points) x (No of prefixes worked) x (Station multiplier)

Log returns. E-mailed logs submitted in electronic form will be appreciated. In order of preference the following formats are requested - A. Using the provided Excel worksheet (available on SARL forum or direct from the contest manager). B. Send the logs in a text readable format i.e. Excel worksheet, ADIF or Cabrillo format. C. In all cases please fill out the normal minimum data fields: Date, Time, Call sign of station worked, Mode, RS (T) sent, Exchange sent, RS(T) received, Exchange received and optionally a Comment field. D. If the logging program does not have a field for "contest exchange" or the alternative contest exchange is too long and does not fit in the provided entry field, then log that exchange info in the comment field.

Logs shall be submitted within 7 days after the contest by e-mail to contest@sarl.org.za

Your Video can win BIG

The South African Amateur Radio Development Trust invites amateur videographers to take part in a video competition and compete for some great prizes. Be creative with your camera or even your smart phone. Shoot a short video of an exciting Amateur Radio activity in South Africa and you could win a 5 watt CW MFJ 40 metre transceiver kit valued at R1 300 as well as one of many other prizes, the list is growing daily. The video format can be AVI, WMV or MPEG with a minimum resolution of 320 x 240. The length of the video should be between 3 and 5 minutes. The subject can be anything that illustrates the joy and excitement of amateur radio.

Entries should be sent on a CD or DVD. Do not attempt to e-mail it. Send your video to Amateur Radio Video Competition, PO Box 90438, Garsfontein, 0042. The closing date is 31 December 2013. The winners will be announced early in 2014. For more details and the rules visit www.amateurradio.org.za

Hamnet Winter Challenge

The Hamnet winter Challenge is this year a national event. It will be held from 12:00 CAT on Saturday 3 August till 12:00 CAT on Sunday 4 August. One of the frequencies to be used is 5 260 kHz. It should be noted that only Hamnet teams may participate. Others who are monitoring the frequency are encouraged to log all the activity and send the log to propresearch@sarl.org.za as input to the propagation research project.

Hamnet groups who would like to participate should send the following information to the exercise co-ordinator, Pierre Tromp, ZS1HF, zs1hf@hamcity.co.za not later than close of business Friday 19 July 2013:
- Intended location (name and co-ordinates or 6-letter grid square)
- Name of team
- Full names and call signs of participants (preliminary list for entry, changes to be sent through to the exercise co-ordinator before the exercise)
- Indication of which team members are NOT Hamnet members, if any
- Which of the exercise channels you intend operating on

The exercise co-ordinator may veto your entry if your chosen location is too close to another team or one of the recognised Emcomm centres. Those who enter earlier have a

WHO is or was Rampersad Haribhai Spoonilal V Muckerjee

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better chance to be granted their choice of location. Since there is significant preparation required once the list of teams is known, no late entries can be accepted. Final instructions, including the messages required to be transmitted, the locations of the other teams and the channels they intend using, will be sent to all teams during the week before the exercise.

International Lighthouse and Lightship Weekend reaches 300th registration

The prestigious registration number 300 for the International Lighthouse and Lightship Weekend, only six weeks away, goes to the Luehe Lower Lighthouse in Germany.

Located in that country's Lower Saxony region, it will be activated during the fun-event on 17 and 18 August by avid contester Rainer Arndt, DL9OE. The lighthouse, established in 1900, is a cylindrical tower painted with red and white horizontal bands. The lantern's range is westbound or downstream on the south bank of the Elbe very close to the west side of the mouth of the Luehe River.

For the event, Australia and Germany have around 50 each, leading the registration table. The USA has 38, England 26, Argentina 18, Sweden 14, with Ireland, Canada, Netherlands and Scotland about 10 each.

Now in the 16th year the annual event is always held on the third full weekend in August to promote public awareness of old marine navigation methods, amateur radio and foster international goodwill.

For the guidelines and online registration visit the dedicated website at www.illw.net

The listing for South Africa shows:

ZS1AZ from Cape Infanta, ZA0002. QSL direct or SARL bureau

ZS1CT/lh from Green Point, Cape Town, ZA0006. QSL direct or Bureau. This is the oldest lighthouse in South Africa

ZS1OAR/lh from Danger Point, ZA0013. QSL direct or SARL bureau

ZS1RJQ/lh from To Be Annouced, ZA? QSL direct or SARL bureau

ZS2MUS/lh from Donkin Reserve, ZA0023. QSL via LoTW, e-QSL, Bureau or direct to ZS2EC. Locator KF26ta

ZS2EC/lh from Seal Point, ZA0021. QSL via LoTW, e-QSL, Bureau or direct to ZS2EC. Locator KF25ks

ZS2PE/lh from Cape Receife, ZA0022. QSL via LoTW, e-QSL, Bureau or direct to ZS2EC. Locator KF25ux

Where Durban, East London, Mossel Bay, Port Edward, Port Shepstone, Robben Island, Dassen Island and a few other places with lighthouses? Also missing Shark Island, Pelican Point and Swakopmund!

The CCXD Award - the ultimate award

The Caboolture Radio Club in VK4, has just launched the ultimate award – the CCXD Award.

Here is an award for the Globe-trotting DXpeditioner. For those who have helped so many to achieve DXCC, there is now the opportunity to achieve the ultimate accolade, membership of the most prestigious and exclusive club in Amateur Radio - CCXD – The Century Club of eXtreme Difficulty.

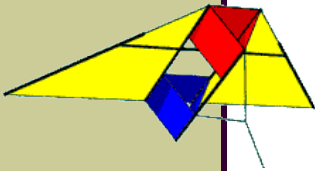It is no coincidence that CCXD is DXCC in reverse.

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To achieve DXCC you need to work 100 countries from your home country. To achieve CCXD you need to work your home country from 100 DX countries.

At the time of writing, no applications have been received. Certificate number 1 is awaiting presentation. Will you be the first to receive this honour?

For more information visit our website www.vk4gd.net

Go fly a kite.....

Are there any experienced Field Day participants who haven't considered using a kite-supported antenna? Richard, G3CWI, of SOTAbeams has the bug, too. "Flying antennas using kites is great fun. It is the kind of activity that all the family can enjoy. I have been doing it off and on for over 30 years. To get others started I have put together a page of tips and links http://www.sotabeams.co.uk/kites-faq/ for anyone that might be interested in having a go."

A good idea for Jamboree-on-the-Air!

Awards from the Activity Group of Belarus

Igor, OK8EU - EU1EU, announces a whole new range of awards and trophies from the Activity Group of Belarus - http://ev5agb.com/award/award_5-9-band-dxman_e.htm, http://ev5agb.com/award/trophy_e.htm and http://ev5agb.com/award/awards_e.htm

CQ WW Electronic Certificates

Participants in the CQ WW Contest 2012 may download their certificates now in PDF-format at http://www.cqww.com/score_db.htm

African DX

Senegal, 6V (Reminder). Vladimir "Vlad", RK4FF, will once again be active as 6V7S from Le Calao in Ngaparou between 10 and 16 July. Activity will probably be on 80, 40, 20, 15 and 10 metres using CW, SSB and RTTY. He is scheduled to be here one more time this year - 22 October to 27 November. QSL via RK4FF. Log is available on ClubLog. Check out QRZ.com for some pictures.

Angola, D2. João, CT2HPM, is now active as D2CT from Luanda until 26 July. Activity will be 20 to 10 metres using mostly PSK31 and RTTY. QSL via his home call sign.

Ethiopia, ET. Ken, K4ZW, will once again be back in Addis Ababa between 12 and 19 July. He plans to operate from ET3AA, the Ethiopian Amateur Radio Society (EARS) club station. He mentions that most of his time will be spent on CW, but is going to try and be active on RTTY as well. Ken also states to look for ET3AA HQ station during the IARU HF World Championship (13 and 14 July). QSLs go to N2OO.

In fact, Bob is handling QSLs now for ET3AA, but he does not have all of the logs. There is a chart on the ET3AA QRZ.com Web page that lists the logs he does have.

Bob, N2OO has logs and QSL cards for QSOs made with ET3AA during the following periods:
From 15:00 – 15:40 UTC 4 August 2011,
From 12:29 UTC 8 December 2011 to 16:13 UTC 13 December 2011,
From 06:57 UTC 30 October 2012 to 09:10 UTC 7 November 2012 and
From 12:29 UTC 8 November 2012 to current.
He can also confirm contacts made with ET3SID from 21:08 UTC 8 December 2011 to 05:08 UTC 13 December 2011. Bob's OQRS is at http://df3cb.com/oqrs/n2oo/

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Kenya, 5Z. Dani, EA4ATI, will continue to operate as 5Z4/EA4ATI from Kenya at least until July 2014. QSL via EA4YK.

Sudan, ST. Sam, K0YAK, is located in Khartoum and will work as ST2SF until August, using 45W mainly on CW and digital modes. During power disruptions he will work QRP. QSL via h/c, LotW.

African Islands

Madagascar, 5R, AF-057. Flavio, IW2NEF hopes to be active holiday-style from Nosy Be Island (WLOTA 3042) as 5R8NE from 16 to 30 July, including the IOTA Contest. Hê will be active on 40 to 10 m using SSB. QSL via IK2DUW. http://iz2dpx.jimdo.com/

Maderia, AF-046. Operators Nicola, CR9ABE, Jenny, CR9ABG, Xavier, CS9ABC, and Ricardo, CT3KN, will be active as CQ9D from Madeira Natural Park on Desertas Island between 26 and 29 July. Activity will be on 40 - 10 metres using CW and SSB. They will have a very modest set-up (low power and verticals antennas). They also will participate in the RSGB IOTA Contest, 27 and 28 July. QSL via LoTW or direct to CT3KN.

Reunion Island, TO7 (Early Announcement). Members from the F6KOP Radio Club team will be active as TO7CC from Reunion Island (AF-016) between 5 and 17 February 2014. Activity will be on all bands and modes, with an emphasis on the lower bands and RTTY. More details will be forthcoming.

Contest Calendar

QRP Fox Hunt
01:00 UTC – 02:30 UTC 12 July
Mode: CW
Bands: 20 m Only
Classes: Single Op (Fox/Hound)
Max power: 5 watts
Exchange: RST, state, province or country, name and power output
QSO Points: 1 point per QSO
Multipliers: (none)
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points
Submit logs by: 02:30 UTC 13 July 2013
E-mail logs to: (see rules)
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at:
www.qrpfoxhunt.org/summer_rules.htm

NCCC RTTY Sprint
01:30 – 02:00 UTC 12 July
Mode: RTTY
Bands: (see rules)
Classes: (none)
Exchange: (see rules)
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults
Submit logs by: 14 July 2013

E-mail logs to: (none)
Post log summary at:
http://www.3830scores.com/
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at:
http://www.ncccsprint.com/rules.html

NCCC Sprint
02:30 - 03:00 UTC 12 July
Mode: (see rules)
Bands: (see rules)
Classes: (none)
Exchange: (see rules)
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults
Submit logs by: 14 July 2013
E-mail logs to: (none)
Post log summary at:
http://www.3830scores.com/
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at:
http://www.ncccsprint.com/rules.html

FISTS Summer Sprint
00:00 - 04:00 UTC 13 July
Mode: CW

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Bands: 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m

Classes: QRP; QRO; Club

Max power: QRO: 100 watts; QRP: 5 watts

Exchange: FISTS: RST and state, province or country and first name and FISTS no; non-FISTS: RST and state, province or country and first name and power

Work stations: Once per band

QSO Points: 5 points per QSO with FIST member; FIST members: 2 points per QSO with non-FIST member

Multipliers: Each US state and VE province once; Each DXCC country once

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults

Submit logs by: 12 August 2013

E-mail logs to: n2ed@fists.org

Mail logs to: FISTS Sprint Log, c/o Ed Wlodarski, N2ED, 3 Shore Rd, Andover, NJ 07821-2240, USA

Find rules at:
http://www.fists.org/operating.html

IARU HF World Championship

12:00 UTC 13 July to 12:00 UTC 14 July

Mode: CW, Phone

Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m

Classes: Single Op CW - QRP, low or high; Single Op Phone - QRP, low or high; Single Op Mixed - QRP, low or high; Multi-Single; IARU Member Society HQ

Max power: HP: >150 watts; LP: 150 watts; QRP: 5 watts

Exchange: IARU HQ: RS(T) and IARU Society; Non-HQ: RS(T) and ITU Zone no

Work stations: Once per band per mode

QSO Points: 1 point per QSO with same zone or with HQ stations; 3 points per QSO with different zone on same continent; 5 points per QSO with different zone on different continent

Multipliers: Each ITU zone once per band; Each IARU HQ and each IARU official once per band

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults

Submit logs by: 12:00 UTC August 13, 2013

E-mail logs to: IARUHF@iaru.org

Mail logs to: IARU HF Championship, IARU International Secretariat, Box 310905, Newington, CT 06111, USA

Find rules at:
http://www.arrl.org/iaru-hf-championship

SKCC Weekend Sprintathon

12:00 UTC 13 July to 24:00 UTC 14 July

Mode: CW

Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10, 6 m

Classes: (none)

Max operating hours: 24

Exchange: RST, name, state, province or country and SKCC no or "NONE"

Work stations: Once per band

QSO Points: 1 point per QSO

Bonus Points: (see rules)

Multipliers: Each state, province or country once

Score Calculation: Total score = (total QSO points x total mults) and bonus points

Submit logs by: 21 July 2013

Post log summary at:
http://wes.m0trn.com/submission.php

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at:
www.skccgroup.com/operating_activities/weekend_sprintathon/

CQC Great Colorado Gold Rush

20:00 – 21:59 UTC 14 July

Mode: CW

Bands: 20 m Only

Classes: W: Wire antennas; V: Vertical antenna; B: Beam antenna; P: Portable operation, any antenna

Max power: 5 watts

Exchange: RST, state, province or country, class and member no or power output

Work stations: Once per 30 minutes (max of 3 times)

QSO Points: 3 points per first QSO with a station; 2 points per 2nd QSO with a station; 1 point per 3rd QSO with a station; 100 points for 1st QSO with W0CQC

Multipliers: Each state, province, country once; Each club member once

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total state/province/country mults x member mults

Submit logs by: 13 August 2013

E-mail logs to: vkumagai@q.com

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at:
http://www.cqc.org/contests/gold2013.htm

Next Week's Contest

NAQCC Straight Key/Bug Sprint, 00:30 - 02:30 UTC 18 July
RSGB 80m Club Championship, Data, 19:00 - 20:30 UTC 18 July
QRP Fox Hunt, 01:00 - 02:30 UTC 19 July
Russian Radio Team Championship, 07:00 - 14:59 UTC 20 July
VK/Trans-Tasman Contest, Multi-Mode, 08:00 - 14:00 UTC 20 July
SARL Winter QRP Contest, 12:00 - 15:00 UTC 20 July
DMC RTTY Contest, 12:00 UTC 20 July to 12:00 UTC 21 July
Feld Hell Sprint, 16:00 - 18:00 UTC 20 July
North American QSO Party, RTTY, 18:00 UTC 20 July to 05:59 UTC 21 July
CQ Worldwide VHF Contest, 18:00 UTC 20 July to 21:00 UTC 21 July
RSGB Low Power Contest, 09:00- 12:00 UTC and 13:00 - 16:00 UTC 21 July
Run for the Bacon QRP Contest, 01:00 - 03:00 UTC 22 July

CQ World Wide DX Contest Rules Get Complete Rewrite

The sponsor of the CQ World Wide DX Contest, arguably the premier events of the contest season, has completely rewritten the contest rules, http://www.cqww.com/rules.htm effective with this spring's SSB and CW weekends (RTTY is not affected). "The CQ WW DX Contest rules have evolved for over 50 years," said Contest Manager Randy Thompson, K5ZD, in announcing the updates on 1 July http://cqww.com/blog/?p=178.

"Changes in technology, operating practices and enforcement efforts caused the rules to become increasingly complex." The primary goal of the rewrite, he said, was "to make the rules simpler and easier to understand." The rewrite already has generated considerable online discussion.

One change offers a "Classic Overlay" category for single-operator, all-band entries. "The Classic Overlay category is intended for the radio purists who want to participate in the most traditional way," Thompson explained. Entrants will use a single radio and operate without outside assistance, and only the first 24 hours of actual operating time will count toward the operator's score. Also new is a "Rookie Overlay" category for operators licensed 3 years or less. The CQ WW is doing away with the "Xtreme Contesting" and "Team Competition" categories, and "Checklog" is now listed as a non-competitive entry category.

The rewrite creates two categories of Club Competition - US and DX. Entrants must log contacts as they occur and may not edit their logs after the contest ends. The updated rules also address "unsportsmanlike conduct," such as having an excessive bandwidth, and disqualifications. "Red and Yellow cards have been removed in favour of one action - disqualification," Thompson noted.

IARU 2013 Contest Features "HQ" Stations, WRTC-2014 Station Test

Participants in the 2013 the IARU HF World Championship http://www.arrl.org/iaru-hf-championship this weekend, 13 and 14 July, not only will be looking to work "HQ" or headquarters station this year but WRTC-2014 test stations. The contest starts at 12:00 UTC and ends 24 hours later. The Potomac Valley Radio Club (PVRC) will field "headquarters" stations W1AW and NU1AW on behalf of the ARRL and the International Amateur Radio Union (IARU), respectively. Working headquarters stations of IARU member-societies around the world provide additional scoring multipliers. Steve Bookout, NR4M, heads the W1AW/4 team, while Frank Donovan, W3LPL, leads the NU1AW/3 team.

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Operations will be spread among more than a dozen stations in the club's coverage area, all staffed by PVRC members. W1AW/4 and NU1AW/3 will be active on all modes, 160 to 10 metersres.

Active IARU member-society HQ stations will send signal report and official IARU member-society abbreviation, such as "ARRL" or "IARU." Participating members of the IARU Administrative Council will send "AC," while members of the three IARU regional executive committees will send "R1," "R2" or "R3" as appropriate. All other participants will send signal report and ITU zone. As ARRL Contest Branch Manager Mike DeChristopher, N1TA, points out, the IARU contest is the only one to use ITU zones in the exchange, and the only event to count IARU member-society stations and IARU officials as multipliers. DeChristopher says the IARU is a fun contest for the beginners and veterans alike. "The short format of the contest means a fast-paced weekend," he adds.

As part of the run-up to World Radio Team Championship 2014 (WRTC-2014) http://www.wrtc2014.org/, the international event's organizing committee will have 25 "future WRTC" stations on the air during the IARU contest for a capability and training test http://www.wrtc2014.org/competition/2013-station-test/. WRTCs run concurrently with the IARU HF World Championship, and the 2014 event will see 65 stations on the air from various locations in New England. Organizers say the goals of the 2013 station test are to expand the pool of experienced teams for station set-up, evaluate proposed site locations, confirm logistics and procedures and gather log data under competition conditions. A similar test was conducted in 2012. The WRTC test stations will be active on 80 to 10 metres, CW and SSB, and many will use WRTC-2014 equipment configuration and scoring rules.

WRTC-2014 Co-Chair Randy Thompson, K5ZD, says one goal of the station test is to make sure that the signals of all competitor stations compare favourably with one another. Organizers will compare the test stations' signals via the Reverse Beacon Network (RBN). "We are asking all of our 25 stations to be on CW on certain bands and times with their beams in a specific direction," Thompson said. WRTC-2014 has posted a schedule of times, bands and beam headings http://www.wrtc2014.org/station-test-schedule-for-signal-testing/ as well as a list of active test stations http://www.wrtc2014.org/competition/2013-station-test/

History This Week for the week starting 8 July

1595 - Johannes Kepler inscribes geometric solid construction of universe
1854 - George Eastman, Waterville NY, who invented Kodak camera, was born
1856 - Charles E. Barnes patents a crank operated machine gun
1866 - Indelible pencil patented by Edson P Clark, Northampton, Mass
1914 - Robert Hutchins Goddard patents a liquid-fuel rocket motor
1928 - John Logie Baird demonstrated stereoscopic 3-D television
19?? - My mother was born in Oudtshoorn, Little Karoo

1962 - First transatlantic TV transmission via satellite (Telstar I)
1978 - Pioneer-Venus 2 Multi-probe launched to Venus
1999 - KPH San Francisco, last US commercial Morse message http://www.radiomarine.org/

Why there was no HF Happenings last week!!